

## TRADE IS STILL GOOD

## Xmas Shopping Expected to Break All Records.

## IRON PRICES ALSO HIGHER

Colder Weather Stimulates Activity in Retail Lines—Labor Continues Scarce, and Tendency Toward Higher Wages Still Strong—Money Is in Demand in the Cities.

New York, Dec. 7.—In its weekly review of the trade, Dun's to-morrow will say:

Lower temperature has stimulated retail trade in seasonable staples, but interest is most conspicuous in holiday goods. Expectations of a record-breaking demand for Christmas specialties are being fully realized.

Jobbing and wholesale houses are doing well for the season, but reports of mercantile collections show much irregularity. Improvement in the promptness of payments is expected when the crops have been more fully marketed, and greater ease appears in money rates, which are far above normal, despite the fact that the total amount in circulation exceeds all records.

Steel earnings in November surpass those of the same month last year by 7.5 per cent, yet the movement of freight is restricted by inadequate facilities, causing much trouble in other industries. Very light life machinery is not being sold in the factories and mills, except where the supply of labor and raw material is insufficient, and the vigorous demand for all commodities is indicated by the highest level of prices in recent years.

## Bookings Break Records.

The closing month of the year in iron and steel products is maintained fully the phenomenal rate of progress that has been experienced during the autumn, notwithstanding a further advance in some quotations that might be expected to curtail operations. Every available plant is now actively engaged, except where materials cannot be secured, and the volume of business booked for next year assumes many new records in 1907, unless some unforeseen disaster occurs. As no such setback is feared, the future is regarded with great confidence. Prices of iron products have risen from \$1.40 to \$1.50 per ton, but Bessemer pig iron is unchanged, although firmly maintained. Commercial failures this week in the United States are 233, against 192 last week, 264 the preceding week, and 222 the preceding week in last year. Failures in Canada number 23, against 19 last week, 22 the preceding week, and 24 last week. Of failures this week in the United States, 85 were in the East, 41 South, 7 West, and 11 in the Pacific States, and 72 report liabilities of \$5,000 or more. Liabilities of commercial failures reported for November are \$1,380,782, compared with \$8,965,788 a year ago.

## Report by Bradstreet.

Bradstreet to-morrow will say: Colder weather, combined with the approach of the holidays, has greatly stimulated retail trade at retail prices, and the outlook favors a record-breaking Christmas trade. Buying of articles appropriate to the season is now virtually in full swing, the tendency to begin shopping earlier than in previous years being particularly marked. In jobbing and wholesale lines, inventories are about due, but it is noteworthy that there is more than ordinarily brisk for December. Stocks in some branches are low, but for instance, are down to a low point. Business on spring account is all that could be desired at this stage of the season. The car shortage continues, though grain deliveries are a little better.

Labor still continues scarce, additional wage advances are recorded, and the tendency toward higher wages seems to be undergoing continuous expansion. Discontent is expressed in some quarters because the increases granted are not reported in large, as viewed from the standpoint of the employees. Money is very high in the cities, where the demand is extensive. It is suggested that currency is slow to return from the interior. Collections are good, all things considered, reports from the Southwest being favorable.

All in all, the situation is very favorable, except in the South Atlantic States, where crop returns have been poor. In the Northwest, where grain deliveries are backward, in some sections 5 to 7 farmers' loads of wheat crop still in the farmers' hands.

## LOST AND FOUND.

LOST—AT GOLDENBROOK'S DEPT. STORE, Thursday evening, 1 small purse, containing \$1.00 and 10 cents. Finder please return to Mrs. H. B. BROADBENT, 124 N. W. Cor. 1st and 2nd Sts. N. W. Reward: \$1.00.

LOST—DEPT. STORE, 124 N. W. Cor. 1st and 2nd Sts. N. W. A small purse, containing \$1.00 and 10 cents. Finder please return to Mrs. H. B. BROADBENT, 124 N. W. Cor. 1st and 2nd Sts. N. W. Reward: \$1.00.

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